

EIC group programme

2023

Nature and Biodiversity taskforce

In line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the taskforce's aims will be to:

- Support the updating of the Biodiversity metric.
- Work with Defra on their updates to environmental targets.
- Produce a holistic nature and biodiversity guide, in line with industry requirements.

Publications

Tackling Barriers to Innovation in the Nature Sector
– report, published Q2 2023.

Environment Act Implementation
– progress report, published Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 9 February 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on the Biodiversity
Metric consultation.

Q2 – 11 May 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on the Biodiversity
Net Gain Register.

Q3 – 14 September 2023
Member roundtable on
the EIC biodiversity
guide.

Q4 – 9 November 2023
Member roundtable on
the EIC biodiversity
guide.

Waste and resources taskforce

In line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the taskforce's aims will be to:

- Clarify requirements of Extended producer responsibilities (EPR) based on research and emerging regulations being developed by Defra.
- Discuss and give Defra industry feedback on the feasibility of expansion of Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and its implications on the waste sector.
- Review impacts of regularising waste streams across local authorities to maximise waste management efficiency.

Publications

Tackling Barriers to Innovation in the Waste Sector
– report, published Q2 2023.

Environment Act Implementation
– progress report, published Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 21 February 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on the expansion of ETS and
implications.

Q2 – 16 May 2023
Roundtable with
WRAP/Defra on EPR
Regulations.

Q3 – 19 September 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on DRS and consistent
policy reforms.

Q4 – 4 November 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on local reforms on
waste streams.

Water taskforce

In line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the taskforce's aims will be to: (subject to group agreement)

- Discuss and identify issues of concern regarding flood mitigation policies with specific reference to soft and hard infrastructure (including looking at investment and financing for flood mitigation).
- Review water catchment management in view of climate change events, and risk map catchments based on NPPF and growth plans for Levelling Up. To consider this with the backdrop of water company plans.
- Consider investment for sewage treatment management in high risk areas where discharges prominent in public access areas. This would also consider infrastructure requirements for mitigation.

Publications

Tackling Barriers to Innovation in the Water Sector
– report, published Q2 2023.

Environment Act Implementation
– progress report, published Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 25 January 2023
Member roundtable on work areas and key milestones.

Q2 – 19 April 2023
Roundtable with **Defra** on the priorities for the department.

Q3 – 12 July 2023
Roundtable with **Environmental Agency** on flood mitigation.

Q4 – 25 October 2023
Roundtable with **OFWAT** on emerging regulations.

Air Quality taskforce

In line with the requirements of the Environment Act, the taskforce's aims will be to:

- Support DfT and Defra delivery of local air quality improvements through CAZs and LEZs.
- Ensure the air quality services and technology sector is equipped to address new and future challenges arising from the Act.
- Develop mandatory indoor air policy for all public buildings and public transportation, as well as minimum product standards.

Publications

Tackling Barriers to Innovation in the Air Quality Sector
– report, published Q2 2023.

Environment Act Implementation
– progress report, published Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 7 February 2023
Roundtable with **Defra**
on Air Quality targets in
Environment Act.

Q2 – 9 May 2023
Roundtable with
Defra/Imperial College
on NRMM.

Q3 – 12 September 2023
Roundtable with **Defra/DfE** on
indoor air quality in buildings.

Q4 – 7 November 2023
Roundtable with
DfT/Defra on
Clean Air Zones.

Contaminated Land working group

In 2023 the working group's aims will be to:

- Promote 'Brownfield First' across Government Policy, specifically looking at the emerging Levelling Up Bill and land remediation tax relief guidelines.
- Continue to bring to the attention of the Environment Agency the industry concerns regarding DoWCoP and its implications for the remediation of soil from development sites.
- Investigate and come to a position regarding review of WM3 regulations and ensure Defra are aware of industry concerns.

Publications

Position paper on promoting of Brownfield First policy in relation to Levelling Up Bill and any changes to the NPPF in relation to EIA – Q2/Q3 2023.

Position Paper on DoWCoP and use this to highlight to the regulator the challenges to current system – published Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 1 February 2023
Roundtable with **Defra** on the Biodiversity Metric consultation.

Q2 – 10 May 2023
Roundtable with **Defra** on the Biodiversity Net Gain Register.

Q3 – 6 September 2023
Member roundtable on the EIC biodiversity guide.

Q4 – 1 November 2023
Member roundtable on the EIC biodiversity guide.

Laboratory analysis working group

In 2023 the working group's aims will be to:

- Actively pursue the development of an industry client guide for asbestos in soil methodology.
- Consider policy issues in relation to PFAS and its various components in relation to monitoring, sampling for clients. Direct link to **Defra** position.
- Consider the technical skills and labour shortages in the Labs sector.

Publications

Joint industry publication of Asbestos in Soils blue book methodology for clients – Q2/Q3 2023.

Position Paper on PFAS to help inform DEFRA Policy Team – published Q3/Q4 2023.

Roundtables

Q1 – 1 February 2023

Roundtable with **BSI** update on microplastics.

Q2 – 10 May 2023

Roundtable with **UKAS** on preservation of water sampling.

Q3 – 6 September 2023

Roundtable with **DWP** / university on skills and labour shortages.

Q4 – 1 November 2023

Roundtable with **Defra** Chemicals Policy Lead on key issues.



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